

had people approach me from that part of my district who have said, why can't we have elections of planning commission members rather than have them all appointed? Then we have direct input, they are more accountable, they are responsible to the voters. I think in this instance, this is at least one step in that direction, and it would allow those people, at least those people who at least live within the zoning jurisdiction but outside of the actual city limits of Omaha, to have a vote and allow them to at least have some say in who is going to determine what happens where they live in terms of zoning. So I appreciate Senator Pedersen's persistence. I think this is only a step and that there does need to be additional attention given, and I will be looking at that either later on Select File or future legislation to expand the concept to, not just the cities of a metropolitan class, but to others as well. Thank you

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members, I was going to pursue much the same course of action. I was asking...I would like to ask Senator Hartnett a question, if he would yield?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hartnett, will you respond, please.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: In your discussion on this issue, Senator Hartnett, I was wondering if you did talk about considering other classes of cities. I think it's a mile and a half jurisdiction, on most in the smaller cities across the state, about where the subject is just as raw in that area as it is in probably your area.

SENATOR HARTNETT: The changes we're making in this, Senator Wehrbein, is that right now, with the statutes saying that there must be one person outside, there may be two, depending upon the city. The thing that Senator Pedersen is doing with this is that rather than the mayor or the city council appointing these people to the planning board, his gives the power to the county board, so that's the change. So I think it's one of the things we may want to look at, you know, as...see how this works out for other counties. But right now in the statute there must be one from that outside of the city.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Is that true of cities of the first class and